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Rose Thorn Staff

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News Briefs

By Alexander J. Clerc

Grad appointed director of state's homeland security

Rose-Hulman graduate Eric Dietz has been selected by Gov. Mitch Daniels to be the first executive director of the state's Department of Homeland Security. This new department controls Indiana's emergency magement and homeland security efforts.

Dietz received a bachelor's degree in 1984 and master's degree in 1986 in chemical engineering. He earned his doctorate at Purdue University. He recently retired from the U.S. Army after a 22-year career.

Circuit breaker fails on space station

A circuit breaker failed on the international space station Wednesday, shutting down one of the gyroscopes needed for position control. This is the second circuit breaker to fail in just under a year.

This latest failure leaves the space station with only two functioning gyroscopes, which is the bare minimum needed, NASA said. This could affect NASA's plans to dock Discovery with the station in mid-May.

Obesity poses broad threat to lifespan

Obesity may shorten the average life expectancy of today's children by two to five years, according to a life-expectancy analysis printed in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine. The projected increase in obesity-related illnesses could have a major effect on Medicare.

Life expectancy in the USA is currently 77.6 years. It has only increased since the government started keeping records in 1900.

Friday
Partly Cloudy 57 Hi / 43 Lo
Saturday
AM Rain 51 Hi / 34 Lo

Provided by www.weather.com

Closing 2015 forum

Angela Smiley
Staff Writer

The Rose-Hulman 2015 initiative was started in the fall of 2004 by Rose's new president, Jack Midgley. The initiative originally consisted of four themes and six major avenues for communication: the latter consisted of a campus mailbox, fax number and e-mail address for receiving letters, a voicemail box for spoken responses, and an individual response form and online discussion forum to

allow for responses submitted via internet.

On Tuesday, March 8, the online forum was permanently shut down. A statement on the forum's closing was posted on the Rose 2015 site, but has since been taken down. David Piker, Vice President for Public Relations and one of the coordinators of the initiative, said that the statement did not reflect the administration's reasons for removing the forum.

"I think there was one, come to think of it," he remarked, "but it was not from the President."

The closing of the forum, which had been active for 14 weeks, was mentioned at the March 8 faculty meeting shortly before it was carried out. The forum can no longer be accessed online, but Piker has stated that the 2015 review team, which has begun to discuss and summarize responses through all media, will include forum responses in its report. In addition, the forum

archives will be made available to interested members of the campus community.

Student and faculty responses were mixed. "My reaction is, 'Why have they been taken down?'" commented David Mutchler, Associate Professor of Computer Science.

In response, Piker stated that Midgley and he had decided response volume no longer warranted the forum's presence. In the sixteen days before its closing, the forum

Despite the removal of the forum, members of the campus community can still contribute to the initiative through other channels...

Seniors to the fore: chemical engineering

Bridgett Mayer
Staff Writer

Senior chemical engineering majors are hard at work this quarter designing their senior projects. The projects, required for completion of a chemical engineering degree, involve devising a process to make a specific product. Students were given a list of synthetic chemical processes to choose from, and then divided into groups. Although the design projects do not involve laboratory work or making the desired product, they do entail many meetings and a large amount of research, sometimes with professionals from the chemical engineering industry. The projects also involve consultation with a faculty advisor in the chemical engineering department.

Megan Hay, a senior chemical engineer, is currently working with two other seniors to synthesize cyclohexane, an organic molecule, using the

reactants benzene and hydrogen. Although her group is still researching the processes involved, Hay expects to spend quite a bit of time on the project. "We plan on meeting two hours every Monday, three hours every Wednesday, and then a meeting with our professor once a week," she said.

"As things get more hectic, I'm sure we'll have to plan on meeting more." Designing a chemical process and a facility to contain it can be a hard undertaking. However, Hay is confident that her experience in other classes will help her with the project. "One experience I've had that I think will help would be Design II. It was similar to what we are doing now...we were given the process and had to find ways to optimize it, and then write a formal report explaining our improvements."

Other students in the class were grateful for knowledge of chemical processes acquired in summer internships. Senior



had received only 14 new posts, though this number was comparable to that seen by the individual response form (15).

Many students suspect that criticism of the administration found on the forum also played a part in its closing. Shortly before closing the forum, administrators tried to quiet the criticism by enacting stricter rules about post content. Sophomore Computer Science major Brant Gurganus, frequent forum poster, offered his own impression. "I don't know the official story behind why it was shut down, but I think the discussion was starting to degrade... Towards the end, there was a lot of bashing of the president. But I think there were better ways to handle it," he commented, suggesting that technical changes to the forum might have allowed constructive posters to better ignore com-

ments that added little to the discussion.

Despite the removal of the forum, members of the campus community can still contribute to the initiative through other channels, and the administration is stepping up its efforts to hold discussion sessions on campus. The Alumni Advisory Board recently met with Midgley, and the Parents' Association has plans to do so on March 19. Members of the Student Government Association are also considering holding another forum for student discussion.

Current plans call for all remaining parts of the 2015 initiative to remain active until the end of the academic year. At that time, the review team will release a summary of community responses and the administration's focus will move to implementing some of the improvements suggested therein.



http://www.canadian-rx-pharmacy.com/Images/Lipitor_Pic.jpg
The production of Lipitor, a cholesterol-lowering drug, is the focus of one chemical engineering senior project.

chemical engineer Jenny Hodson commented, "Any time you have industrial experience it helps you understand how a plant works; my internship with Eli Lilly has helped me develop an idea of how all the individual pieces fit together

to produce a drug start to finish." Hodson's design project involves production of a generic version of the cholesterol-lowering drug Lipitor, manufactured by Pfizer, Inc.

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Stay inside the box.

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Apartment for Rent

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Midwest Student Christian Gathering

Register deadline is March 18 for the annual Midwest Student Christian Gathering to be held April 1-3 at George Williams College on Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. Students from across the Midwest will gather for scripture, meditation, music, workshops, fellowship, and much more. Call the United Campus Ministries, 232-0186

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"Working to keep the Rose-Hulman community informed
by providing an accurate and
dependable source for news and information."

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THE DEADLINE FOR CONTENT SUBMISSION IS 5 P.M. TWO DAYS PRIOR TO PUBLICATION
All content should be submitted to thorn@rose-hulman.edu or to the Rose Thorn Office (Hulman Memorial Union room 249).
The editors reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity, grammar, length, and factual errors. The editors reserve the right to accept content changes submitted after deadline.
All letters must contain the writer's signature (electronic form is acceptable) and contact information (e-mail address and/or phone number).
The views expressed in the Rose Thorn are those of the original author and do not necessarily represent the views of the Rose Thorn staff or Rose-Hulman community.

Seniors, from page 1

Because Lipitor is still under patent, the group has had some trouble determining how the product is manufactured. “It is difficult to find pricing information on the raw materials,” commented senior Natalie Morand, also working on the project. “Also, the patents are really hard to read.” The group’s choice of project was based upon each member’s background—Hodson and Morand have had experience in the pharmaceutical drug industry,

and Radhika Dave, their partner, will be attending medical school next year. Hay added, “When we asked the professor the average amount of time we should spend on it, he suggested about twelve hours a week... It is a two credit hour course, which I think is slightly deceiving!” Each week, Seniors to the Fore will highlight senior projects throughout campus. Our next installment will focus on the chemistry department.

Report: Trust in journalism has hit all-time low

Breeanna Hare
C. C. Song
Michigan Daily (U. Michigan)

Trust in journalism has hit new lows, according to the second annual State of the Media Report. Published by the Project for Excellence in Journalism, the report showed that in the past 17 years, the public has come to see the press as self-serving and discreditable. The number of those who thought the press was highly professional fell from 72 percent to 49 percent, while the number of those who thought the press covered-up its mistakes rose from 13 percent to 67 percent. This lack of trust has translated into a decline in readership as the State of the Media also showed. According to the report, the number of newspaper readers has fallen from its height, 75 percent in 1992, to 60 percent in 2004, due to distrust and other factors.

People cannot trust the news if they do not respect it, and this has been a long-term trend, said former CNN and Newsweek journalist and Communication Studies Prof. Anthony Collings. “The problem is that news organizations underestimate their audience; they believe they have to dumb it down. This may increase the numbers, but it will decrease the respect for the news,” Collings said.

Brent Cunningham, the managing editor of the Columbia Journalism Review, a magazine that is associated with Columbia University, said the increasing popularity of the Internet has contributed to the decrease in newspaper readership.

“I think (reporters) today cherry-pick facts and ignore the arguments that are in the way. The other thing is that the people have disengaged from serious media in this country. Technology has allowed us to isolate ourselves and be selective in terms of media, agree with what we observe and disagree with what we don’t observe,” Cunningham said. He added that there is also long-term distrust in journalists. “I think polls for the last 20 years have shown the public increasingly less trustful of the press, and I think the reasons for it are many and complicated and it’s not always just the journalists’ fault -- although press has done a lot to shoot ourselves in the foot, not just CBS, not Jayson Blair, all the way back to Janet Cooke case in 1980.”

Jayson Blair of The New York Times was fired for plagiarism and fabrication. CBS’s production, “60 Minutes,” broke a fabricated story on President Bush’s

military record. In addition, Dan Rather was also criticized for swaying the audience towards a political bias. Janet Cooke of The Washington Post made up a story about a boy named Jimmy, supposedly an 8-year-old heroin addict that generated controversy. Michigan State University Communications Prof. Howard Bossen believes the recent national decline in the trust of newspaper journalism affects everyone, including students on college campuses.

Bossen also said that while there is no single reason why the public is losing trust in the media, he believes it can partly be attributed to the variety of news sources that have become available.

“Students need to pay more attention to the media in general. When I ask my students if they watched ‘60 Minutes,’ relatively few hands go up,” he said. “We have a big confusion in society about what is news and what are ‘talking heads’ masquerading as news,” said Bossen.

University of Michigan English Prof. Laurence Goldstein agreed. “We have the highest forms of journalistic talent available if students are willing to seek out quality sources,” he said. He cited The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal as examples of what students should be reading for verifiable information.

As the editor of the Michigan Quarterly Review, he said he believes the distinction between “quality” journalism and the “talking heads” that Bossen spoke of is a form of journalism that “satisfies intellectual curiosity with depth of analysis and a style of writing that provides insight.”

Goldstein added that the popularity of broadcast news has contributed to the decline in quality journalism.

“People are depending on the TV for news; that is a problem. The one thing the TV cannot do is give analysis and commentary,” said Goldstein.

The bottom line is that we live in an argumentative culture, Collings said. “When you get people worked up about an issue in the news, they tend to attack the messengers, which are the journalists. In this politically charged atmosphere, mistakes get more attention than they deserve.”

Hey, Moms!
While you’re visiting,
tell your kid to write
for the Thorn!
It’s for their own good.

Hermann Maurer to dissect computer failures in lecture

Rose-Hulman News

The likelihood of a large scale and long-term failure of all computers and computer networks will be discussed by distinguished computer scientist/science fiction author Hermann Maurer during a special lecture on Tuesday, March 22, at 4:30 p.m., in room E-104 of Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology’s Moench Hall.

The title of Maurer’s lecture is “CanWeAvoidCatastrophicFailures of Computer Networks?” It is free and open to the public, through the Elsie Pawley Fund and Rose-Hulman’s Humanities and Social Sciences Department. The first 100 people attending the talk will get a free copy of one of Maurer’s science fiction novels.

Maurer, dean of computer science and director of the Institute for Hypermedia Systems at Austria’s Graz University of Technology, believes that computer and computer networks are currently at a high security risk by a well-planned cyber attack. The consequences of a serious failure are catastrophic, according to Maurer, because of society’s dependency on computers. He argues why a failure is likely and what it will cause if far-reaching precautions — technical, economical and political — aren’t taken.

Born in Vienna, Austria, Maurer specializes in networked multimedia systems and their applications to knowledge management, learning, digital libraries, museums, and societal implications of new developments in computers. He studied mathematics and computer science at the universities of Vienna and Calgary, taught at a number of universities throughout the world, and worked as a mathematician-computer programmer with IBM Research in Vienna (1964-66).

Maurer has founded 16 companies, currently oversees about 200 researchers and 2,500 students, and has been project leader of nearly 20 multi-million dollar projects. He has published approximately 600 papers and 20 books, the most recent on “Learning Support Systems for Organizational Learning”. He has also received a number of awards, including the Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education’s Fellowship Award in 2003, becoming a foreign member of the Finnish Academy of Sciences, and a member of the Academia Europaea.

As a hobby, Maurer has written a series of science fiction novels, all with technical themes. Some of the titles include “Xperts: The Telekinetic”, “Xperts: The Paracommunicator”, “Xperts: The Parawarriors” and “Xperts: Supervision.”

TO: Yvonne Latta
FROM: Cecilia Latta

Hey Mom!
Thanks for everything.
Your support has helped tons!
I love you!

~Cece

TO: Sadie Evans
FROM: George Evans

Mom,
thank you for everything.
You fought the elements for me.
I’ll do the same for you.

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Day: Friday
Time: 1:35 p.m. - 4:10 p.m.
Place: GM Room, B-111

For more info, visit www.rose-hulman.edu/mathconf

We gratefully acknowledge the generous support of The Mathematical Association of America (administering NSF Grant DMS-0241090) in providing additional funding for this year's conference.

Out This Week

In Theaters

Ice Princess
Directed by Tim Fywell
Starring Michelle Trachtenberg
Rated G

The Ring Two
Directed by Hideo Nakata
Starring Naomi Watts
Rated PG-13

Melinda and Melinda
Directed by Woody Allen
Starring Will Ferrell
Rated PG-13
Limited Release

Steamboy
Directed by Katsuhiro Ôtomo
Starring Anna Paquin
Rated PG-13
Limited Release

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2. *The Pacifier*
3. *Be Cool*
4. *Hostage*
5. *Hitch*

Robots made to please

Jacob P. Silvia
Entertainment Editor

Chris Wedge and Carlos Saldanha, the directors of *Ice Age* (2002), have come together once again to bring us another computer-animated adventure: *Robots*. This time, it's not set in the distant past, but (arguably) in the distant future.

Robots live in a world free of humans; a world where bettering yourself means getting extensive body modifications, and I don't mean tattoos and piercings. Their world is a mechanical parody of a human world; robots face the same social problems we do. Older robots leak fluid, tend to fall apart, or do not even function properly at all. There are upper class robots and lower class robots. The lower class robots are exploited by the upper class, working as dishwashers and other appliances.

But wait! Not all upper class robots exploit their poorer neighbors. There is Bigweld, voiced by Mel Brooks (writer/director of *Spaceballs* (1987) and *The Producers* (1968)), who thinks that every robot, no matter what s/he looks like on the outside, shines from within. He makes this evident by calling all inventors from around the world to join together to improve the quality of robot life.

Enter Rodney Copperbottom, voiced by Ewan McGregor (star of *Moulin Rouge!* (2001) and the *Star Wars* prequels), a lower class aspiring inventor who's had a rough life. Growing up, he was forced to wear hand-me-downs. Unfortunately for robots, that

means hand-me-down *body parts*.

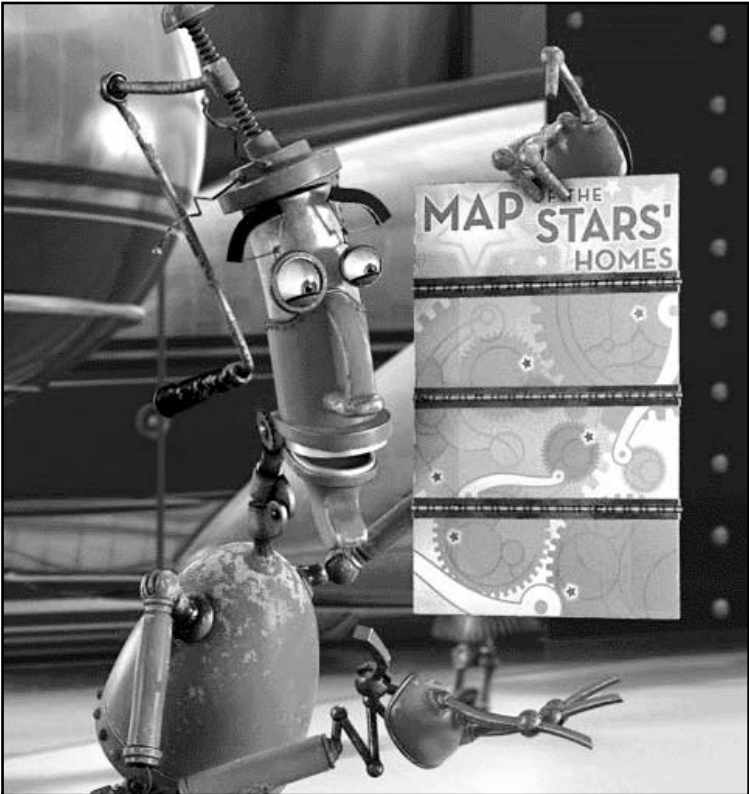
Rodney's father, a robot who forsook his dream of being a musician to "make ends meet," encourages his son to make something of his life. Rodney takes a train to Robot City only to discover that Bigweld is nowhere to be found. In his stead stands the ominous, yet handsomely streamlined, Ratchet (Greg Kinnear), acting head of Bigweld's company.

Ratchet's MO involves forcing robots to upgrade or degrade, becoming an "outmode" (A.K.A. scrap). His motto: "Why be you, when you can be *new*?" His ad campaign is something like Fritz Lang's *Metropolis* (1927) merged with a Calvin Klein cologne commercial.

Rodney encounters a unique collection of robots in Robot City. The uniting factor between these mechanical men (and women) is that they are poor, and thus cannot afford the latest in body technology. Once Ratchet discontinues all spare parts, forcing the bots into upgrading, Rodney realizes he can make a difference. He applies his skills as an inventor in the realm of repairing all the run-down robots. This is noticed by Ratchet, and threats and violence ensue.

Rodney and his accomplices must find Bigweld, for he is the only one who can make things right!

The animation is beautiful, featuring robotic characters with tiny moving parts living in a city designed like a gigantic, overly ornate pinball machine. The humor will appeal to a broad



Though Robin Williams' character Fender was funny, he stole the show too much.

demographic, as it ranges from posterior-based humor for the kids to witty satire for the adults.

The only downside is that of the character Fender, voiced by Robin Williams, who, much like Donkey (Eddie Murphy) in *Shrek* (2001), stole the show.

The movie references so many different cultural icons of roboticism, there are just too many to list. A few include a robot dancing 'the robot,' as well as a robot singing the intro to "Bicycle Built for Two" a la HAL in *2001: A Space Odyssey* (1969).

Though *Robots* is a "family" movie, it is not a "children's" movie. Any sci-fi geek (at least, the non-defective ones) would enjoy the rampant robotic jokes as well as the rather neat computer animation (though not as amazing as *The Incredibles* (2004), it's pretty good for non-Pixar CG). So, if you are due to see a flick this weekend, and don't want to see *The Ring Two* (2005), I suggest you go see *Robots*. If you don't enjoy it, you probably need to upgrade your movie-taste circuit.

Wanna be a rock star? Read this book!

Bob Schulein
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Who can forget Semisonic's 1998 smash hit song "Closing Time" with its sing-along chorus, "I know who I want to take me home..."? In *So You Wanna Be a Rock & Roll Star*, drummer Jacob Slichter tells of the band's slow rise to fame and subsequent drop to semi-obscurity. Slichter's self-effacing style and honest portrayal of the rock industry's inner-workings make the book nigh-impossible to put down.

The story begins with Slichter graduating from Harvard Uni-

versity ("The world's number one purveyor of misplaced confidence," as Slichter puts it) with a degree in African-American Studies. Unable to find a job, he returns home to Minneapolis and fills a variety of temp-jobs throughout his twenties and early thirties. He fills his spare time by playing the odd open-mic night. In 1994, he joins up with fellow Harvard graduate Dan Wilson (lead guitar/vocals) and bassist John Munson to form the band Pleasure.

After a legal dispute with an obscure 80's band, they change their name to Semisonic and set

about recording their first record. Slichter describes in vivid detail his angst while recording *Great Divide*. He chows down on Roloids while his bandmates work with producers to finish the album. Most rock memoirs are more focused on groupie loving than how it actually feels to be up there on stage.

The marketing of *Great Divide* is mishandled by MCA ("Music Cemetary of America," musicians tell Slichter) and the album sells even worse than the band's modest expectations. Slichter describes how radio airtime is vital to a band's success. Corporate

payments to influential DJs for "miscellaneous expenses" are the norm in this business. But airtime is not guaranteed and Semisonic finds its first album too soft for rock stations and too hard for easy listening stations.

A higher-up in MCA's corporate ladder thinks there is potential for Semisonic, so the label agrees to finance a second album. When the album is finished, the band wants "Closing Time" to be the first single. Executives don't think the song will be a hit and encourage the band to record more tracks in the studio.

Slichter hears of a similar situation that happened to Reggae artist Shaggy. Shaggy went back into the studio upon the label's insistence and one of the new songs was picked as the single. The song got no airtime and the label was about to drop Shaggy when a DJ picked up one of the original tracks from Napster and started airing it. This track became a hit and made Shaggy a multi-platinum artist.

Seeing that, the band sticks to their guns and chooses "Closing Time" as the first single. The song takes off big. Slichter tells many humorous stories about the boredom and loneliness of touring and of picking out new clothes for publicity shoots. The book is especially good in these sections as you see Slichter slowly getting over his stage fright.

The band wrongly thinks that because their first song was a hit, the next one will be as well. The second single off *Feeling*



semisonic.com
Jacob Slichter - Harvard graduate, talented author, rock star.

Strangely Fine, called "Singing in My Sleep," is deemed too soft for rock stations and too hard for easy listening and goes nowhere. The band makes one more album that is universally critically praised, but again goes nowhere on the charts.

While the overall story is sad, Slichter is never bitter about his experiences and is proud the band never sold out its musical vision for easy success. Slichter doesn't sell out in his book either, and *So You Wanna Be a Rock & Roll Star* is a refreshingly honest look at the music industry. There are countless books about what stars have done with groupies, but there are only a handful of books that describes the inner-workings of the music industry like it actually is. Of those, Slichter's is the most entertaining and fun to read.

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Drama Club presents *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* on March 18-19/25-26

Dale Long
Rose-Hulman News

Rose-Hulman Drama Club Presenting 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat' on March 18-19/25-26.

Don't know much about the biblical story of Joseph of Canaan, his envious brothers and his father Jacob? That's OK. Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology's Drama Club is about to transport audiences back to the time of slaves, caravans and Elvis-impersonating pharaohs, all within the walls of the college's Hatfield Hall Theater.

Performances of the popular musical "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" will be March 18-19 and March 25-26, at 7:30 p.m. (Note: The March 19th show is sold out.) Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for non-RHIT students and youths (12 years old and younger), and free for Rose-Hulman students. Tickets can be reserved by calling the Hatfield Hall Ticket Office at (812) 877-8544, after March 14.

First performed in London in 1968 as a 15-minute Easter cantata, the play loosely follows

the biblical account of the life of Joseph of Canaan, whose father presents him with a coat of many colors, something rich enough in color and texture to befit a king. Joseph wears the coat like a prize before his brothers. He is made to suffer for his haughtiness, before being restored to his rightful place in the family.

"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" served as a launching pad for the careers of playwrights Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice. The duo went on to produce "Jesus Christ Superstar" and "Evita," before having successful solo and collaborative achievements with other artists.

There is no dialogue in the play, according to Director Bunny Nash, with everything being sung from start to finish. It's a mixture making light of such musical styles as French tort, country and western, calypso, rock-n-roll and straight choral singing.

The play's cast features sophomore Eric Volz as Joseph, owner of the rainbow-colored coat. Performing as brothers and other characters are seniors Jared Augsburger (Zebulon),

Martin Brenny (Benjamin) and Ben Mertz (Simeon); junior Justin Jennings (Dan); sophomores David Bander (Asher), Brandon Javella (Reuben), JaMaal Gasset (Judah), Matt McLinn (Isaachar), Robbie Phelps (Levi), Nick Slabough (Gad) and Matt Wittstein (Napthali).

The cast also includes local Rose-Hulman alumnus Richard Payonk, as Jacob; junior David Kaiser, as Pharaoh; junior Alicia Gehlhausen, as the Narrator; senior Jacob P. Silvia, as Potiphar; and senior Marieda Mergele, as Potiphar's wife. Other students in the play are Megan Bardolph, Jennifer Cain, Patrick Cunningham, Elizabeth Deaton, Samantha Dick, Kris Dobbins, Erika Haskins, John Jenkinson, Allison Jones, Elaine Kratz, Katie Lefler, Brittany McGowan, Brittany McNeill, Elaine Mindrup, Maureen O'Connor, John O'Grady, Adam Reynolds, Tina Shook, Victoria Taylor, Joe Trout and James Wilkerson.

Members of the Maple Avenue Community Children's Choir, directed by Michelle Azar, will also participate in the production.

This marks the third time that the Rose-Hulman Drama Club



Dale Long / Rose-Hulman News
Sophomore Eric Volz expresses his pleasure after receiving the dazzling coat from his father, Jacob, in a scene from the musical *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream*.

has presented "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." In fact, Payonk played the role of Joseph in the first production in 1985.

The Drama Club will conclude its 2004-05 performance season with "Picasso at the Lapin Agile," an award-winning play written by comedian Steve Martin, on May 6-7 and May 13-14 in the Hatfield Hall Theater.

Good verdict on *Trials and Errors*

Mike Jones
Staff Writer

It's hard to write an appealing song in someone else's style. After all, originality is a significant source of interest in any form of art. Unfortunately, far too many bands rely solely on larceny for inspiration, which usually results in boring tunes. However, some bands can simply make it on quality songwriting alone, despite a lack of innovation. This is where Magnolia Electric Company (MEC) stands.

Formed by longtime musician Jason Molina, the band is highly influenced by Neil Young. Actually, *highly* is an understatement. MEC is *completely* influenced by Neil Young. This isn't such a bad thing, though, since imitating Neil and Crazy Horse isn't an overplayed angle just yet. And again, MEC simply writes good songs.

With the release of their live album *Trials and Errors*, MEC shows that not only can they write good songs, but they can also play them well. I usually don't enjoy live albums, but I didn't even realize it was live at first. Musically, the songs tend to be very guitar driven, just like those of Neil Young. Most of the guitar work is simplistic but enthralling. In "North Star" there is a subtle melancholy between the lead and rhythm guitars. On other tracks, the melancholy is traded for strength. Two of the



later songs, "Leave the City" and "The Last 3 Human Words" center on poignant trumpet solos. This is a welcome change on a rather lengthy album (the shortest song on the album is nearly six minutes long). All of the songs use repetition extensively, so it's easy to lose track of the length.

Most of Jason Molina's musical success can be attributed to his voice. Even though he doesn't possess a brilliant singing voice, he relies on well placed vocals and lyrics to attract his audience. The quality of his voice is similar to Eddie Vedder, although his lyrical style sets him apart from the Pearl Jam front man. The combination of his voice, excellent lead guitar work, and repetitive rhythms make this an excellent album to use as background music, or just to fall asleep to. MEC may not be Neil Young, but Jason Molina intends to lead his band into a frontier that's already been traveled, if only by old Shakey.

If you're interested in Magnolia Electric Company, be sure to check out their debut LP, which is being released April 9. Also, if you want to see two very good bands in concert, check out Murder by Death with Magnolia Electric Company on March 24 at the Buskirk-Chumley Theatre in Bloomington. Tickets are cheap, and it will be worth your while to attend.



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Can't hack your way into college



At least
I have
opinions

John Kropf
Opinions Editor

Unless you've been living under a rock for the past month or so, which admittedly is very easy to do at Rose, you've heard about the moral quandary involving some very famous colleges and their applicants. It seems that several colleges used an online application system called "ApplyYourself" to allow prospective students to apply online. Due to a flaw in the system, there was a way for applicants to see notes about their admission status. The hack wasn't very complicated.

Instructions for exploiting the system were posted on a BusinessWeek Online forum. The hack required that the user log in to the system, and combine his UID from the resulting URL with a unique identifier for their chosen school found by viewing the

HTML source of the page. This wasn't hard to do, but it couldn't be done by accident either. The system remained open for around 9 hours, before it was shut down. In some cases, students were able to view their admission status, but most often they saw nothing because no decisions had been made.

The quandary comes in deciding what the universities should do about this. Harvard immediately refused acceptance to any student who had accessed the system, placing the blame squarely on the shoulders of the students. Harvard issued a statement saying that the actions were indicative of a lack of a moral compass.

There are many issues to consider here. First, how much blame does ApplyYourself carry for creating the flawed software in the first place? Second, how wrong was it for students to access information about themselves?

I would assert that the majority of the blame rests with the students who exploited the security hole. There was no way anyone could accidentally see this information. A conscious effort had to be made. That alone should

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have warned people that the information they were about to see wasn't intended for their eyes. The information also belonged to the universities in question. Once an application was sent, it seems as if you're giving the university your consent to evaluate you using the information you provided them. As long as that is all the universities were doing with it, I see no reason why anyone should assume that they have the right to see it, until the university notifies them. Some have also argued that the students who used this hack were taking initiative, for which they are now being punished. The only person who could truly claim initiative there, however, is the one that found the exploit in the first place.

On a simpler level, the debate really comes down to the importance of a person's ethical standards. The schools to which these people were applying were some of the most prestigious in the country. These people were hoping to become the future business leaders of America. But with the kind of ethical standards they displayed, it seems as if these universities are using this situation to show America that they still value ethics, and try to impart them to the business community. This is not all bad. If the educational institutions responsible for creating tomorrow's business leaders didn't value ethics, or even pretend to, the envi-



www.niaid.nih.gov

ronment that allowed Bernard Ebbers, Kenneth Lay, and many more like them to run the publicly owned businesses which they controlled into the ground would be ever more prevalent.

While it was appropriate for the universities to take the actions they did, the real lesson here is to the students. I can only imagine how devastating it would be to be turned down from my first choice school because of something like this, but I also have to wonder if any of them thought what they were doing was wrong. If so, I

can't understand why they would risk their admission to a prestigious university, over something so trivial as a peek at their preliminary admission status. Actions like this call a person's character into question. This is an unhappy event for all involved. I only hope that it can be used as a learning experience with regard to the boundaries one may and may not cross in ethical dealings with others. I'm sure that none of the people affected by this will forget what happened but that may be a good thing after all.

Community member frowns on vulgar t-shirts

Greetings. I wanted to take the time to share my unsolicited input regarding an apparent practice at your basketball games that I found rather disturbing.

February 3, 2005, for the first time ever, I brought my two children, ages nine and 12, to watch a Rose-Hulman basketball game. I had mixed feelings about bringing them because the game started so late and it was a school night, but they wanted to come so I decided to bring them. We sat behind the benches and across from what is apparently the student section.

My daughter said, "Look at those boys' shirts, dad!" which I did. What I saw was about 20 fraternity guys (I assume, but could be wrong) wearing tee-shirts that read, "DEPAUW SUCKS." Although I'm sure my children hear this language at school, they don't hear it at home and I was upset that they had such a visible opportunity to read it at Rose-Hulman.

I'm far from a purist and I was a fraternity member myself while in undergrad. I was even a fraternity advisor at Indiana State for several years after I graduated. Despite that, I found their message to be very embarrassing and insulting. In fact, I was equally embarrassed for them, although they didn't appear to have similar feelings of their

own.

I might understand this behavior somewhat more from a state university, but from a prestigious college like Rose-Hulman I found the behavior to be astounding. In fact, I found their actions to be totally shocking. I would have been less surprised, as odd as it would have been, had I looked over and found all the guys to be wearing sport coats and ties at the basketball game than I was to see them wearing these shirts.

Perhaps I'm just getting older and out of touch with reality. Notwithstanding that there may not be much you can do about it, I can't imagine that you would find this acceptable attire for the students of Rose-Hulman. I suppose I shouldn't want to hold these students to a higher standard than other college students, but in many respects, I think they deserve to be held to a higher standard and desire to be held to a higher standard. In fact, they might set the standard in this area.

In closing, I feel that Rose-Hulman students are desirous of, and deserving of, being regarded respectable young men and women. I don't think the shirts of those few (about 20) furthered their goal.

Sincerely yours,
Michael Thomas Ellis
Attorney at Law

Letter to the editor

In this same issue there is a letter to the editor from Mr. Mike Ellis, a local attorney, commenting on the shirts that many of you wore to the DePauw-Rose home basketball game. Each of you knows what it says.

I agree with Mr. Ellis when he says he found the message to be "very embarrassing and insulting." Rose students are looked upon in the community as leaders and role models. While in many of your minds, the shirt may seem quite tame, it does in fact mention Rose-Hulman while degrading another nearby institution. This slang may be common for some younger in-

dividuals, but I can assure you it is seen as being inappropriate language by many people in the Rose-Hulman community, the Terre Haute community, and the nation at large. Rose's name is attached to a saying that is not representative of the great students you are and the great school you represent.

I would ask that you refrain from wearing the shirts. Our office has produced new shirts which read "Beat DePauw." Please stop in the Student Affairs Office to exchange your old shirt for the new.

Each of us lives in a fish bowl of sorts. Any one thing that reflects negatively on Rose-

Hulman reflects negatively on each of you and the campus as a whole. Businesses in Terre Haute, recruiters, and citizens all look upon Rose for leadership and vision. We benefit from this view. Anything we do to detract from this image can harm our school and our community.

If we truly believe we are the best, then we should present ourselves to the world at large at all times as the best we can be. You represent yourself, your family, and Rose-Hulman in all that you say and do.

Pete Gustafson
Dean of Students

Someone's gotta say it...

One problem I've noticed here is how little problems seem to just build up over time. Here are a few examples of things that just bug the hell out of me.

So, if you've ever walked into the newer part of Olin through the set of double doors near Deming, you'll know just what I'm talking about. What the hell is with that door? It seems to me that, as an engineering school, someone would be able to engineer a door that opens with a pull strength of less than 300lbs, and closes fully, yet not violently into you. The door next to it is a much better example of a door that isn't horrible.

And what about the water drainage problem? I think increasing the number of storm drains is a wise investment in general, but here, it's probably getting crucial.

The road that goes past Skinner is sinking and falling apart. I partly blame the lack of drainage. If we install sewers, the roads will stay nice longer, which is good for everyone. Also, by the Apartment Hall, I hope efforts are underway to correct the marsh-problem that seems to crop up whenever there is rain. In some ways, our campus has so many advantages with regards to these water-management problems, after all we have streams and creeks striping the campus and, as I understand, a pretty good Civil Engineering department. We can fix these things if we admit they are problems and put some effort into it. Granted, drains aren't as glamorous as buildings and statues, but I'm tired of walking through standing water on the way to class.

Also, if you've ever walked from your residence hall to Hatfield (provided you don't live in Skinner), I'm sure you've noticed a complete lack of sidewalks that go directly to the building. You can cut across the grass or take a curvy route around the Flame or you can take the sidewalks that are laid out and horribly inefficient.

Let's figure out all the little problems that blemish the school's appearance as being really top-notch and work on getting rid of them. If we keep letting these little things fester, it's going to get worse (like the water damage in Moench...) and then it'll be a real problem.

Justin Hutchings
Computer Science
Class of 2007

Rose Sports Rundown



Photo Courtesy Rose-Hulman Sports
Senior Brad Jones was recently named SCAC Baseball Player of the Week.

Engineer student athletes receive national, conference honors

Andrew Twarek
Staff Writer

Four Rose-Hulman athletes earned individual honors for their recent efforts in baseball, track, and basketball. Rebekah Forsyth was named to the d3hoops.com all-region team, and Ryan Schipper finished 9th in the nation by clearing a 15'-9 3/4" pole vault to cap their seasons. To begin the spring sports season, Brad Jones was honored as the SCAC Baseball Player of the Week and Shawn Smith was named SCAC Pitcher of the Week.

Rebekah Forsyth, a sophomore mechanical engineer, was honored by d3hoops.com as a member of the All-Great Lakes Region Team. She became the first Rose-Hulman women's basketball player to earn all-region recognition with the third-team selection.

Forsyth set school records this season with 451 points (17.3 per game), 312 rebounds (12.0 per game), and 169 field goals. She hit 107 free-throws

and made 57 steals, both good for third on the all-time leaderboard.

Forsyth recorded double-doubles in 16 games this season, including 11 of the final 12 games. She also became the first sophomore in the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference to grab 500 boards, finishing among the top 20 in NCAA Division III. She was named to the First Team All-SCAC at the conclusion of the season.

Ryan Schipper earned a spot at the Division III National Indoor Track and Field meet as a sophomore civil engineering major. He placed 9th in the country with a 15'-9 3/4" leap, missing an All-American recognition by just one place. Schipper had cleared 16'-3 1/4" late in the season for the fourth-best jump in school history. He will continue competing with the Engineer team in the outdoor season that begins with the Rose-Hulman Early Bird Meet this Saturday.

The Engineer baseball team

finished 7-5 during their season-opening trip to Clearwater, Florida, over spring break. The trip included a four-game sweep of SCAC foe Oglethorpe University in Atlanta.

Brad Jones was named the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference Baseball Player of the Week for his efforts during the team's opening week. The senior math major hit .450 and racked up a .800 slugging percentage in the 12 games on the trip. Jones, a center fielder, leads the team with three home runs and one triple from the middle of the batting order.


Shawn Smith, a senior civil engineer, was honored by the SCAC office as the Conference Pitcher of the Week. He earned a 2-0 record in two starts, throwing one complete game. Smith allowed just 10 hits and struck out nine to hold his opponents to a .185 batting average. The right-hander also maintained a 2.40 ERA to lead five Engineer pitchers who have 10+ innings.


Last week's sports scores	Upcoming athletic events
Baseball (7-5, 4-0 SCAC) March 6 Rose-Hulman 12 vs. Oglethorpe 8	Baseball Saturday, March 19 Rose-Hulman vs. Mount Union - Noon Ohio Wesleyan - 3 p.m.
Softball (2-6, 0-0 SCAC) March 4 Rose-Hulman 4 vs. Augustana College 3	Softball Saturday, March 19 Rose-Hulman vs. Hanover 1 p.m.
Men's Tennis (3-5) March 12 Rose-Hulman 2 vs. Centre 5	Sunday, March 20 Rose-Hulman vs. St. Mary's College 1 p.m.
March 16 Rose-Hulman 6 vs. Wabash College 1	Women's Tennis Friday, March 18 Rose-Hulman vs. St. Joseph 6:45 p.m. (Wabash Valley Tennis Center)
Women's Tennis (6-5) March 11 Rose-Hulman 7 vs. Franklin 2	Saturday, March 19 Rose-Hulman vs. Thomas More -- 9 a.m. Lake Land -- 11 a.m.
March 12 Rose-Hulman 7 vs. Centre 2	Track Saturday, March 19 Rose-Hulman hosts R-H Early Bird Meet Noon
March 15 Rose-Hulman 0 vs. DePauw 9	
Teams in bold denote winners.	Games in bold denote home games.

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I Love Waffles

Alexander J. Clerc

This hardly ever happens, but sometimes when I go to dinner at the ARA I can't find any entrée which appeals to my discerning tastes. Thank goodness they serve waffles every day, or I would certainly have starved by now. So I want to devote my piece this week to the waffle, for all the dining dilemmas it has bailed me out of. Bon appetit:

The King Clerc version of the Bible tells us: "In the beginning was the Waffle, and the Waffle was with God, and the Waffle was God. And God tasted the Waffle, and saw that it was good."

I'm pretty sure that this is how it really happened. The waffle has been with us since the beginning of history and has benefited civilizations of all cultures. Waffles were actually the first form of currency in the ancient world before less edible alternatives like gold came in to style. Euclid marveled at the waffle for its elegant shape—square and circular simultaneously! And if Mary Antoinette had instead said, "Let them eat waffles," she would have been much better off.

But how do I love you, Waffle? Let me count the ways...

I love your graceful splatter on to the waffle iron, your sensuous sizzles as your batter congeals, your luscious scents and golden complexion... waffle, my dear, you are breakfast perfection.

I think I speak for everyone here at Rose when I say, "Waffle, never ever leave us (like that two-timing heart-breaker, Cracklin' Oat Bran)." There are some days when, if it wasn't for waffles and Wilson Phillips, I would just snap.

By the way, if you want to purchase a copy of the King Clerc version of the Bible, I can hook you up. You can probably find me around dinner time in the ARA, eating a waffle.

Wacky Prof Quotes

"They ought to put that on my tombstone: 'He drew a pretty good circle.'"

--Prof. Sherman, who drew a pretty good circle

"There are some days you're just not in the mood for infinity."

--Prof. Evans, on days that last forever

"So besides the fun of having sex, sexual reproduction is important for all the new stuff that happens."

--Prof. Ingram, an example of new stuff

"If it's skewed, you're screwed."

--Prof. Sherman, on undesirable data distributions

"Nothing like a little destruction on the weekends."

--Prof. Christ, a chainsaw-wielding maniac

"Oh, I forgot, you're a Rose student. You probably don't have a girlfriend."

--Prof. Azhar, being cruel

"I was in a van full of rabbits, once."

--Prof. Dee, who likes fuzzy animals

"If you didn't start this way, you should stab your hand with your pencil."

--Prof. Cornwell, telling students to hurt themselves

"If you're in Mensa, what do you do? Get together at Olive Garden? Measure the heat of the breadsticks?"

--Prof. Evans, mocking geniuses

"Let's say we're not humans. Let's say we're rabbits."

--Prof. Ingram, who also loves rabbits

"A couple of beers, and you can do ANYthing in Maple."

--Prof. Bryan, on the dangers of drink

"What are our units for T & A?"

--Prof. Ditteon, on heavenly bodies

"It's like I take a machete and cut my arm off."

--Prof. Graves, on grading tests

"He's already announced to the world he's going to spank me many times."

--Prof. Song, talking about Prof. Hoover

Send your prof quotes or other humor material to
flipside@rose-hulman.edu

Herbig's Pun of the Week

All numbers are in their social class,
divided by the halves and half nots.

Top Ten Reasons the 2015 Forums Were Closed

10. It turned out this year's actually 2005, not 2015.
9. Too many people were giving spoilers for Rose's future.
8. Hertz started too many topics about himself.
7. We found out the Mayans knew the world would end in 2012.
6. The forums were condemned after an awful triple homicide.
5. The IRS discovered it was all just a tax dodge.
4. The forums were never as cool after they sold out.
3. We won't need forums where we're going.
2. Cyborg Hulbert destroyed them with his eye-ray death-lasers.
1. They decided response volume no longer warranted the forum's presence.

This Day In History

In 1942, the War Relocation Authority is created to intern Japanese Americans in camps. Thank goodness we no longer dehumanize any of our own citizens.

In Addition

And that's when I shot him,
Your Honor.

